

From the Heart of the Pastor

Adam Hamilton, Pastor of Resurrection UMC in Kansas City asks three questions:

- Why do people need Jesus?
- Why do people need the church?
- Why do people need this particular church?

I would like you to think about these questions regarding your life and our church.

I believe God has been overjoyed with Westwood UMC's presence in Kalamazoo and the world for sixty years. As I reflected about why God and the community need this church three words came to me: faith, hope, and love (1 Corinthians 13:13):

- **Faith:** Our congregation desires to know and experience God. On Sunday I dropped in on two full Sunday School classes. Our Alpha Course introductory dinner was last Tuesday, and another Alpha Course met on Sunday evening. The Men's Prayer Group continues to be strong as men are encouraging one another in faith. There are many other ways we are growing close to God.
- **Hope:** We are a presence of hope for our community. We contributed many backpacks and a tremendous amount of school supplies to the children at King-Westwood Elementary School. Laura Keiser, the site coordinator for Community in Schools commented, "We are so fortunate to have the church as a partner". We also are continuing to reach out to adults to participate in the Literacy Center. We are also being intentional about the stewardship of God's creation using washable cups instead of Styrofoam on Sunday morning.
- **Love:** We are a family of faith, and it is witnessed in the Prayer Pals, as adults pray for our children and youth. It is seen in our sharing before and after worship services. We are kicking off Dinner With Friends on Sunday afternoon. People have called, visited, and cooked meals for people recovering from surgery and illness. We lift one another up as we care for each other.

In the past few years Westwood has changed, becoming more diverse while keeping the same values of faith. Our church will continue to grow and change in the coming year. I believe God has given us the faith, hope, and love to persevere. In a little over a month we will vote on our renovation plans. The Building Committee has done an excellent job of listening and discerning how the renovations can enhance God's ministry. They are making some difficult decisions on what we can and cannot do based on our budget. Please continue to pray for the team, and our congregation, as we seek God's will and ask God to provide what is needed.

Thank you all for your faithfulness, and opening your heart to the Lord, so that faith, hope, and God's love live through our congregation.

Pastor Wayne

Faith Hope Circle – Sept. 23

Faith Hope Circle will be meeting at Friendship Village, 1400 N. Drake, Room 1A, on September 23 at 1:00 pm. Anyone is welcome. For more information call Helen Lancaster, 344-9874, or Jeanette Jupp, 345-8833.

Dinner with Friends – Kickoff Sept. 27

Dinner with Friends is an opportunity to spend time with those in the church you may not know so well, as well as have an opportunity to renew old friendships. It's also a great way for new members of the church to get to know some of the existing members. Dinner with Friends is open to all the adults in the church, singles as well as couples. Groups are optimally eight in size, but may be bigger or smaller depending on how the numbers work out. For those who are not familiar with Dinner with Friends, it works like this:

- Participants are placed in Groups of approximately eight (8). Your participation is tracked to ensure you are placed in a Group with different people each time you sign up.
- Everyone in a Group will be provided a list of who is in their Group along with phone numbers and e-mail addresses.
- Each group decides when they want to meet. Bring your calendar to each get-together so you can plan when to meet next.
- One person (or couple) is initially assigned from each Group to coordinate (host) the first get-together.
- The host normally arranges the location, which could be a restaurant, home, or church room, and leads the group to decide what's for dinner (i.e., potluck – who's bringing what?)
- Groups should try to meet once a month.
- Hosting the dinners rotates through the Group - hosted by each couple or single (or, if there are 2 singles, they may decide to host a meal together).
- It doesn't have to be dinner, and it doesn't have to be in your home. A group can meet at a restaurant for breakfast, lunch or dinner. The goal is to have enough time to converse and get to know one-another better.

Dinner with Friends is organized once a year starting in the fall. If you are interested in joining a group, please join us on Sept. 27 at 4:30 pm in Simpson Hall, indicate your interest by signing up on the communication card or on the sign-up sheet in the lobby. Or you can email Beth Mitchell at beth-mitchell@att.net with your name and phone number. The more participants the better!

WUMC Pet Lovers Group – Sept. 27

The WUMC Pet Lovers Group will meet this evening at 6:00 pm in the Library. All pet lovers are welcomed! For more information, contact Linda VanOrder.

Church Women United Meeting – Oct. 2

Church Women United will meet Friday, October 2, 2015 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm at Pathfinder Church, 8740 S. Westnedge, Portage. The program is entitled “Bringing God’s Shalom to Our World”. Cost is \$10.00 with lunch, \$3 without; beverages will be provided. A vegetarian lunch option is available. Checks should be made out to CWU or cash upon arrival. Please call 327-1376 by Tues., Sept. 29 to reserve. For additional information, contact Jeanette Jupp, 345-8833.

Thank you, Laryne!

Laryne Williford, our much appreciated organist, pianist, accompanist and friend will be stepping down from her position at Westwood UMC at the end of September. We would like to express our thanks to Laryne for being such a strong force for God through the music ministries these past three years. Well done, good and faithful servant!! We wish you the very best in your performance and teaching career. The good news is, she may be found occasionally attending services with us, as she is continuing her career here in Kalamazoo and in Benton Harbor. We would like to celebrate her time with us in her capacity as our Keyboard Specialist on Sunday, September 27. Be sure to be with us that Sunday and help us celebrate and wish her well.

Help Wanted - Keyboard Specialist

The Organist/Pianist position is available at our church (Westwood UMC) beginning November 1, 2015. This person will be asked to play one or two worship services a week, and accompany the Chancel Choir, Westwood Vocal Ensemble, and an occasional other group. If you know of someone, or are interested in applying, please send your resume to Jane Wright, at Westwood UMC, 538 Nichols Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49006. A job description is available upon request. Find a poster on the Fine Arts Bulletin Board for more information.

Vocal Ensemble Accompanist

If you like playing the piano, and enjoy young people, here is the perfect opportunity for you to have it all! The Westwood Vocal Ensemble is looking for an accompanist who can meet with us just once a week and play for the group when we sing in worship a few times a year and for the occasional outside engagement. Don’t worry, you need not be a concert virtuoso! We will welcome you enthusiastically into our group! Questions? Call Karen Bowman at 375-9580 or email kbow6456@gmail.com.



Missions Happenings for July and August

\$500 was forwarded to Samuteb Memorial Hospital in Kapanga, Congo (member-directed gift).

\$500 was forwarded to the Lord's Mountain Orphanage in Zambezi, Zambia (member-directed gift).

21 pillowcases, 8 bed pillows, and 3 sheets were delivered to the Department of Human Services' foster care program supply closet in Kalamazoo County. This will be an on-going project. The colorful pillowcases were sewn women in the Mission Stitchin' group.

\$150 was mailed to Shepherd's Center of Kalamazoo (July loose coins).

\$157 was forwarded for Native American Sunday (special offering).

100 persons were served dinner on August 9 at the You Are Not Alone dinner held at First UMC. Westwood members prepared and served the dinner which included fresh fruit and blueberry cobbler donated by some of our members and the main course items purchased with our Meijer and Hardings rewards money. Westwood will take another turn on November 8 (we welcome your participation!).

52 backpacks and hundreds of school supplies were donated and purchased with August loose coins for children in need at King-Westwood Elementary School as well as 16 pair of pants, 5 pair of tennis shoes, and 5 hoodie sweatshirts. A box of school supplies will also go to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Illinois with the next mission trip team in February 2016. Laura Keiser, Communities in School coordinator at King-Westwood was thrilled with these much needed donations. Thank you!

TRUNK OR TREAT IS COMING UP!

WHAT IS TRUNK OR TREAT? A safe way for the community to experience Trick-or-Treating. It's called Trunk or Treat because volunteers bring their cars to a parking lot and hand out treats from decorated trunks. However, for the last two years we have had the Trick-or-Treaters come through the church lobby and hallways to get the treats because 1. likelihood of bad weather (it is Michigan, after all), 2. everyone so has so enjoyed the indoor concept, and 3. ease of parking for trick-or-treaters' parents, so we will again be having Trunk or Treat through the lobby and hallway this year. We will have tables set up and instead of decorating trunks, those who choose to do so can decorate their table.

WHEN IS TRUNK OR TREAT? Halloween night – Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 5:30 to 7:00.

WHERE IS TRUNK OR TREAT? In the lobby and hallways of Westwood United Methodist Church – parking for trick-or-treaters in upper parking lot off Nichols Road and parking for volunteers in the parking lot off West Main.

HOW CAN I HELP?

We need **44 stations** to hand out candy (two to each table) . Singles, friends, families, small groups, Bible Studies, and even Sunday School Classes are encouraged to sign up to provide a station. Last year we met our goal of 44 and it was awesome!

We need **LOTS AND LOTS of bags of candy donations**. Candy bags should be pre-packaged and **unopened**. All unopened bags will not be distributed. Candy donations will be accepted September 27th through October 31st in the Lobby.

Kids to take advantage of a safe environment, lots of candy and see people who love to reach out to the community by caring for the community's children and their parents, grandparents, and guardians.

THIS IS AN AWESOME AND FUN OUTREACH EVENT, SO PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE LOBBY OR CHECK THE BACK OF YOUR COMMUNICATION CARD.



Building News

The Westwood Building and Capital Campaign Committees have been working hard to bring the most complete proposal to the church charge conference next month. October 4th had been advertised as the conference date where we would make our collective decision to go forward with the building renovation project. Because our architects and bankers needed a little more time to finish their work, we have decided to include this decisive vote at the annual church charge conference on October 26th.

It is our intention to have the ballot prepared several days before the charge conference and to let everyone have access to it. We want you to be able to see the exact proposal and have plenty of time to pray about it! We have been asking for God's direction throughout this whole process and this will allow everyone to ask for His guidance as they prepare to vote. I believe it is always best to make decisions when we are fully informed and have time to go to God in prayer.

So, keep October 26th on your calendar and in your prayers!

Westwood Building and Capital Campaign Committees



After fifteen weeks of training, Marian Burkey and Doug Tipken were commissioned as Stephen Minister's at 1st United Methodist Church on August 30, 2015.



Serving you on Sundays

If you are unable to help on your assigned Sunday, please switch with someone on the list and let the office know of the change. Your help in finding a replacement is deeply appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

	September 27, 2015 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	October 4, 2015 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
<i>Serving you in Worship</i>		
1st Service Acolyte(s)	TBD	TBD
2nd Service Acolyte(s)	TBD	TBD
Altar	Laura Anderson	Tracy Quintanilla
1st Service Audio	Bill Rotgers	TBD
1st Service Video	Jim Frey	TBD
2nd Service Audio	Bill Rotgers	TBD
2nd Service Video	Mike Turner	TBD
Worship Assistant	Jo Turner	Sandra Bibilomo
Children's Moment	Jane Wright	Pastor Wayne
Videographer	TBD	TBD
PowerPoint Preparer	Kelly Graham	Carol Tolis-Bucklin
<i>Serving you through Welcoming</i>		
1st Service Greeters	Sallie Platt and Jim and Louise Jameson	Jeanette Jupp and Sue Pulling
2nd Service Greeters	Ron and Royann Anspach	Kris Kenz Locke and Diane Rathburn
Hospitality	Beth Mitchell, Karen Bowman	Carol Tolis-Bucklin, Sandy Knowlson
1st Service Ushers	Dave Wright and Wes Merriman	Joe & Shirley Mitchell
2nd Service Ushers	Clint & Jean Whitcomb, Kim Longstroth and Dickson Sikaundi	Diane Rathburn, Mark Reid and Tom & Paula Willson
<i>Staff</i>		
Nursery Workers	Marian Burkey, Kristen VanOrder and Linda VanOrder	TBD
Children's Worship	Jane Wright and Pam Chamberlin	Helga Mortensen and TBD
Keyboardist	Laryne Williford	Gail Secord

Prayer List

Don Hilbert (His mother passed away last week)
The family of Herb Kenz (Herb passed away last week)

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Julian Blair
Gary Cumming
Courtney Chandler (Irene Dutton's grandson)
Gary Cumming
Barry Keith Damon (Coral Damon Brown's father)
Bob Difrancisco
Lois Ellis
Betty Georgeau (Sister of Marian Burkey & Linda Ridderbos)
Marion Gray (Sharon Permenter's mom)
Loree Grupe (Shirley Johnson's daughter, undergoing bone cancer treatment)
Vicki Hale
Stephen Hunt (Barb Hunt's son)
Jerry Kalhorn
Dick Kowal
Gini Martin
Jean Marie Peters (Pastor Wayne's sister)
Linda Ridderbos
Frank Sierawski (son of Nancy Snell)
Helen Sikkenga
Rick Wells

Serving in the military:

Ryan Cavey, Marine Sergeant (serving in the Middle East and friend of the Rotgers family)

Mackenzie Newman, USAF
(serving in Europe; granddaughter of Tom & Elise Hillman)

Prayers for healing and strength to the homebound

King-Westwood Elementary School & Staff

Our Westwood Neighborhood

We have an active prayer chain to lift up individuals in prayer whenever there is special need. To make your request known, please call Mary Grant (345-9422) or the Church Office (344-7165). To keep our prayer list updated, please contact the church office with updates.



Share God's Word

F.R.A.N.

Be a part of FRAN and invite, invite, invite!

F = Friends

R = Relatives

A = Acquaintances

N = Neighbors

Our Vision

We are a disciple-making community that encourages and equips all people to live in Christ by the power of the Spirit and in fellowship with one another through worship, prayer, study and service.

Our Values

- *Worship*
We celebrate our faith in many ways so that God is encountered and lives are changed.
- *Justice*
We confront injustice and work for change within ourselves, our community, nation and world.
- *Lay Ministry*
We help people discover, develop and use their spiritual gifts and talents to serve God and others.
- *Fellowship*
We are a caring, compassionate Christian community open to all.
- *Spiritual Growth*
We nurture children, youth and adults in their journey toward mature discipleship.
- *Mission*
We go and serve others in our community, nation and world through our time, talents, and resources as we proclaim the Gospel and meet human needs.
- *Witness*
We prepare and encourage people to share the experience of God's love in Christ.

Worship Celebrations

Worship Celebrations are held at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (10:10 a.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day, inclusive). Nursery care is provided during both celebrations.

Prayer Chain

We have an active prayer chain to lift up individuals in prayer. To make your request known or to sign up for the prayer list please contact the church office.

Stephen Ministers Are There to Care

Stephen Ministry is a confidential care giving ministry of our church. If you would like a Stephen Minister to walk with you during a difficult time in your life, contact the church office.

Lotsa Helping Hands

Westwood UMC is signed up on the Lotsa Helping Hands website. Sign up today by going to <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/628393/> and fill out the right side of the form ("Request to Join the Community"). After approval you will receive instructions for setting a password and signing-in.

Keep up with church news...

- Join up for Worship!
- the Messenger,
- the email news list,
- the prayer chain,
- the website (Including the calendar),
- Find us on Facebook,
- Lotsa Helping Hands,
- and make sure your personal information is on file in the church office!

Messenger Deadlines

The Westwood Messenger is published bi-weekly. Deadlines are the Thursday prior to publication. Go Green! Email the editor or the church office to receive the Messenger electronically.

Messenger Articles

Please email all Messenger information to: info@westwood-umc.org. Messenger deadlines are the Thursday prior to publication.

Future Messengers and Deadlines

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Publication Date</i>
Oct. 1	Oct. 5
Oct. 15	Oct. 19
Oct. 29	Nov. 2
Nov. 12	Nov. 16
Nov. 25	Nov. 30

Our Mission

Offer Christ, Grow In Faith, Touch Lives, and Make A Difference

Westwood United Methodist
Church

538 Nichols Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49006



Westwood Messenger articles relate to the activities of Westwood United Methodist Church. Any member or constituent may submit articles for publication. Place articles, with your name and phone, in the *Messenger* mailbox outside the church office or send an e-mail to info@westwood-umc.org by the deadline. Your name may be used in the article. The *Messenger* is mailed Tuesday. Subscribers do not receive it before Wednesday. Articles must be submitted at least two weeks before events. All articles are edited to correct errors and conform with postal regulations. Due to space constraints, some articles are abbreviated or postponed at the discretion of the editor. If you have any questions or comments, address them to the editor.

Westwood United Methodist Church Staff and Volunteers

Westwood United Methodist Church	344-7165
Email: info@westwood-umc.org	
Website: www.westwood-umc.org	
Fax: 344-9174	
Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Wayne A. Price	762-4787
E-mail: pastorwaynewumc@gmail.com	
Director of Fine Art Ministry, Jane Wright	544-2390
E-mail: jwrightwumc@gmail.com	
Deacon, Sandra Bibilomo	344-7165
Email: sandra.douglas73@yahoo.com	
Coordinator of Children's Ministries, Helga Mortensen	344-7165
Email: hmortensenwumc@gmail.com	
Lay Leader, Deb Lindstrom	544-0248
Staff-Parish Chairperson, Thom Andrews	370-3951
Trustees, Mark Reid	375-0531
Wesley Foundation Director, Lisa Batten	344-4076
Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College (Office)	
<i>Westwood Messenger</i> Editor, Beth Arbogast,	
E-mail: info@westwood-umc.org	

The *Westwood Messenger* is a newsletter published by the members and friends of Westwood United Methodist Church. There is no subscription fee. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe, email or call the church office.